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paper, at least six weeks before the meeting, to the Secretary, in order that they may be referred to the Committee on Arrangements, with a view of preparing a programme. The committee consists of D. G. Brinton, M. D., chairman ; Prof. W. F. Allen, Prof. T. F. Crane, Prof. Horatio Hale, and Prof. Otis T. Mason.

MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN FOLK-LORE SOCIETY IN THE VICINITY OF BOSTON. — A local meeting of members of the Society, for the purpose of hearing reports and exchanging opinions, was held in the Chapel of Boston University, on May 4. The lateness of the date does not permit more than a brief mention of what proved to be a most successful and enjoyable occasion. Col. T. W. Higginson, who occupied the chair, spoke of the objects of the Society, as part of the modern tendency to humanize history, and make the record of the past vivid and intelligible. The Secretary set forth the ends sought to be attained by the "Journal of American Folk-Lore," and urged the necessity of activity in the collection of the traditions of the Indian tribes, in order that posterity might not be left to deal with insoluble problems. Prof. J. W. Bergen showed the great mass of ungathered folk-lore in the United States, where not hundreds but thousands of items might be gathered in every country village. The same superstitions were found to exist in many parts of the world, and the questions to which these correspondences gave rise could only be answered by a complete collection. Dr. Harris, of Concord, Mass., spoke of the interest attaching to the rhymes which children use for "counting-out." Remarks were made by Messrs. H. E. Scudder, O. B. Frothingham, P. S. Moxom, of Boston, and others. Mr. Sylvester Baxter spoke of the ethnological value of folk-lore, as shown by the experience of Mr. Cushing in connection with the Hemenway exploring expedition. There being a general consent as to the interest of the conversation, it was proposed to hold monthly meetings during the winter ; and a committee was appointed to carry into effect the suggestion.

AMERICAN DIALECT SOCIETY. — A meeting was held at Cambridge, Mass., in Sever Hall, Harvard University, on March 13th, to consider the formation of a society for the study of English dialects in America. A society for this purpose was formed, with the following officers : President, Prof. F. J. Child (Harvard University) ; Vice-president, Prof. J. M. Hart (University of Cincinnati) ; Secretary, Prof. Edward S. Sheldon (Harvard University) ; Editing Committee, as colleagues of the Secretary, Prof. G. L. Kittredge (Harvard University), and Prof. Sylvester Primer (College of Charleston) ; Executive Committee, together with the officers named, Profs. F. D. Allen (Harvard University), B. I. Wheeler (Cornell University), and C. F. Smith (Vanderbilt University).

According to the constitution adopted, the name of the society is to be The American Dialect Society, and its object is defined as "the investigation of the spoken English of the United States and Canada, and incidentally of other non-aboriginal dialects spoken in the same countries." The executive committee are empowered to appoint local secretaries, who

shall supervise the work in their respective districts, and shall constitute an advisory board. Any person may become a member by sending his name and one dollar to the treasurer, and may continue his membership by the same annual payment. The annual meetings are to be held in December, at such time and place as may be determined.

**A HUNGARIAN FOLK-LORE SOCIETY.** — A great folk-lore society is forming in Hungary. It is proposed to bring into friendly communion the scholars of the many different nationalities of that country who have hitherto been much alienated. There will be different subdivisions, — Magyar, German, Bohemian, Croat, Wallach, Armenian, Spanish, Serb, and Romany. The head of the latter section will be the archduke Joseph, said to be of all living men best acquainted with gypsy dialects. An organ already exists in the "*Ethnologische Mittheilungen*," edited by Professor Herrmann, and noticed in a previous number of this journal.

An interesting circumstance connected with this society is that the original suggestion was due to Mr. Charles G. Leland, whose interest in gypsy-lore has brought him into intimate connection with Hungarian life. Mr. Leland, as is known, has earnestly urged that popular tradition is not to be treated as literary *bric-à-brac*, but as an expression of the heart and life of the people. This view needs no argument to make it intelligible in Hungary, where folk-lore is a living thing, where folk-tales are told, and folk-songs sung, and charms and spells still in daily use. Here, also, the study of popular traditions promises to have a direct use, by bringing into fellowship the scholars of a dozen different languages.

It may be added, in this connection, that Professor Herrmann has made a collection of gypsy airs and songs, the first trustworthy collection of the sort, which is to be jointly edited and published by himself and Mr. Leland, the version of the latter to be in English.

It is not necessary to remark how gratifying and encouraging to students and collectors of folk-lore is this appearance of genuine interest in its preservation. No matter what view is taken of its origin and literary relation, popular tradition must, to intelligent minds, always possess a serious interest. That which has existed for centuries or millenniums, which is the expression of the feeling and culture of millions of human souls, which has been lisped by the child in the cradle, or told in the circle about the family hearth, is not to be put on the same level as the printed page, which is read by only a few, to be succeeded in a few years by another form of expression. There is no intellectual interest which folk-lore does not touch; the poet and artist, the historian and philologist, the student of morals and the student of religions, each finds in it a different attraction. — *W. W. N.*

**MONOGRAPH OF OMAHA SONGS.** — The collection of Omaha songs noticed in the last number as having been made by Miss Alice C. Fletcher, with the assistance of Mr. La Flesche, will be published by the Peabody Museum of American Archæology. In the notice mentioned, by a clerical error, it was made to appear that it was Joseph La Flesche, former chief of